

Westfield Historical Society

To preserve our History, Heritage and Memorabilia of our Township and Village

Westfield Township /Westfield Center / LeRoy

Westfield Township was originally a part of a large land grant called Harrisville Township. Westfield Township as it is today was surveyed and boundaries in 1812 but was not organized as a township until 1820.

The first settlers in the township did not locate in "The Centre" as we now know as Westfield Center, but one and a half miles West in Friendsville. The very first road of any kind was a wagon trail running North and South from Wooster to Cleveland, now County road 35/ Friendsville. In the 1820s an East and West road was built .Greenwich (224) which is now the Friendsville crossroad.

In the 1820s a large Inn/ tavern (picture below) sat on the South West corner facing 224 (Greenwich road). It was owned by Joseph Winston who was the Tavern keeper and at one time the Post Master. It was the Stage Coach Stop between Wooster and Cleveland.

Now known as Winston Corners after the original settler . The Inn had a forty foot annex which housed the kitchen and woodshed. The dining room was then the bar where jostled travelers refreshed themselves after rugged hours of riding and prepared for an evening of Folk dancing on the second floor. The upstairs was one great room divided by sliding doors of walnut. This *building* remained until the 1950s.

By 1818 there were enough children in the area so the first school in the township was built in Winston Corners. This was South of the Tavern. A church was also built . It is now a residence on the West side of North Friendsville road. The first house on the left.

Mr. Winston also built the first store which was run by Mr. Fetzer when the first phone was put in. This is where the Post Office was. The store was on the North East corner and was later known as "Friendsville Tavern" in the late 40s and into the 70s. Some locals still remember it. It sat almost on the road and across from " North Printing" which is the house on the South East corner. George Varian owned the bar and later bought the house behind it where I lived. My parents didn't want us raised behind a" BAR" so we moved to Westfield Road (Hill Top) in LeRoy where I grew up. I have remained in LeRoy/ Westfield Center all my life. The Village name was changed from LeRoy to Westfield Center in 1971.

The above article was written by Anita Weaver.

We have been gifted the former Universalist Church on the Northeast corner of North LeRoy Road as the Home of Westfield Historical Society in September 2020.

We are having workdays at the Museum every Wednesday from 10 to 12 noon. Would love to see you.

FAMILY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$200
SINGLE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$100
YEARLY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$ 25

Westfield Historical Society Officers:

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